

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

December 3, 2001

The Honorable Moritz Leuenberger  
President of Switzerland  
Bundeshaus Nord  
3003 Burn  
SWITZERLAND

Dear President Leuenberger,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the upcoming meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention convening on December 5, 2001 to discuss alleged Israeli violations against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. We are deeply disappointed with Switzerland's unfortunate decision to agree to convene this meeting because its one-sided agenda threatens to undermine the integrity of the Convention, politicize a vital humanitarian tool of the international community, and potentially incite a dangerous escalation of the Middle East conflict.

The proposed Draft Declaration for the meeting, which was organized at the request of the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, is staunchly biased with respect to all of the most sensitive issues regarding the final status of Jerusalem and refugees. It calls for the imposition of a United Nations observer force, a proposal that has already been rejected by the Security Council, and would severely undermine the renewed diplomatic efforts by envoys of the United States, the United Nations, and others to end the violence.


As you know, the Fourth Geneva Convention was adopted by the international community in response to Nazi atrocities during World War II. It is an unprecedented degradation of the spirit and purpose of the Convention for it to be used as a political weapon to attack, vilify, and condemn one country, Israel, which continues to suffer Palestinian terrorists attacks against innocent Israeli civilians.


We fear that the convening of the meeting encourages the continued campaign by those who earlier this year misused the United Nations World Conference Against Racism as a platform to promote viciously anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist declarations. Such provocation could seriously exacerbate tensions in the region.

We reiterate our strong opposition and urge you to reconsider the decision to convene this meeting. However, should the meeting go forward notwithstanding, we urge you to do your utmost to limit the damage done by keeping the meeting as brief and perfunctory as possible.

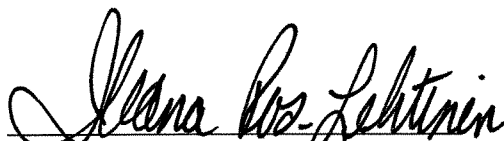
Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to your response.

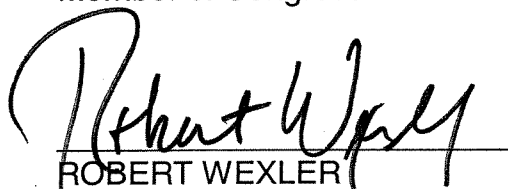
Sincerely,

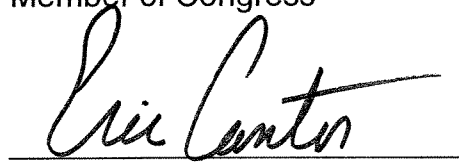
  
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BENJAMIN GILMAN  
Member of Congress

  
HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress


  
ROBERT WEXLER  
Member of Congress

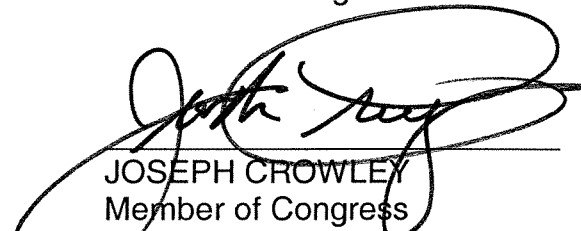
  
ERIC CANTOR  
Member of Congress

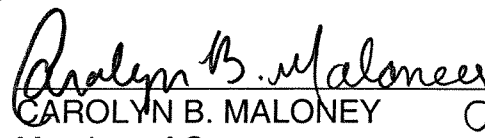
  
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Member of Congress

  
GARY L. ACKERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

  
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress

  
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

Signatories to letters to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger

1. Henry A. Waxman
2. Tom Lantos
3. Benjamin Gilman
4. Gary L. Ackerman
5. Howard L. Berman
6. Alcee L. Hastings
7. Ileana Ros-lehtinen
8. Eliot L. Engel
9. Robert Wexler
10. Joseph Crowley
11. Eric Cantor
12. Carolyn B. Maloney
13. Michael R. McNulty
14. Peter Deutsch
15. Mark S. Kirk
16. Brad Sherman
17. Ellen O. Tauscher
18. Shelley Berkley
19. Janice D. Schakowsky
20. Constance A. Morella
21. Anthony Weiner
22. Jerrold Nadler
23. Steve Israel
24. Barney Frank
25. Ronnie Shows
26. Steven R. Rothman
27. Adam B. Schiff
28. Albert Wynn
29. Carolyn Mccarthy
30. Nita M. Lowey